UNITED
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A

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A/C.2/46/7
31 October 1991

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Forty-sixth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 82

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 25 October 1991 from the Permanent Representatives of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Nordic countries of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, we have the honour to present herewith a joint Nordic memorandum on strengthening the work of the United Nations in the field of operational activities (see annex).

We should be grateful to have this letter and the attached text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 82.

(Signed) Bent HAAKONSEN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Denmark to the United Nations

(Signed) Wilhelm BREITENSTEIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Finland to the United Nations

(Signed) Martin HUSLID
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Norway to the United Nations

(Signed) Jan ELIASSON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Sweden to the United Nations

Annex

STRENGTHENING THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE FIELD OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES: A NORDIC MEMORANDUM

1. The Nordic countries have a long-standing and keen interest in strengthening international cooperation, notably the United Nations system. As major contributors to United Nations operational activities, the Nordic countries are strongly concerned about - and indeed have an obligation to - ensuring the efficiency and developmental impact of these activities.

2. International developments over the past couple of years, and notably the end of the East/West conflict, have made us aware of the possibility of a more creative and forward-looking role for the United Nations.

3. Today, more than two thirds of the 5 billion dollars of the United Nations system's annual turnover is put to work in operational activities for development. Meanwhile, the organizational structure has proliferated, not by design, but in an ad hoc manner in response to emerging needs.

Moreover, partly as a consequence of the shortcomings of the United Nations system, the World Bank group and the regional development banks have become more prominent in the field of technical assistance than was the case when the present system was conceived. There are, thus, clear tendencies of a marginalization of the United Nations.

4. Consequently, there is a need to better define the roles of the various parts of the United Nations system and to establish their specific profiles, based on the comparative advantages of the respective organs.

5. If the present opportunities offered by international political developments are not grasped, the process of marginalization of United Nations operational activities may very well continue. Unless the system is reformed, a vicious circle might develop. Inefficiency and irrelevance would make the system less competitive in attracting donor contributions, which would, in turn, reinforce the process of marginalization.

6. To meet the challenges and opportunities of the 1990s, the Nordic United Nations project was launched three years ago with the aim of generating ideas and proposals on the reform of United Nations operational activities.

7. Based on the studies undertaken within the project, the Nordic countries believe the following areas to be most important:

(a) The need for a high-level forum for Member States to discuss development issues. The present system does not give overall policy guidance for the United Nations operational activities for development;

As an illustration, the Nordic project introduces the idea of an international development council. Its institutional arrangement is not spelled out in detail, nor is it specified to what extent such a council could take over the tasks of the existing governing bodies. It is understood that reform should not lead to a more complicated system of governance, and it is not excluded that a reformed Economic and Social Council would undertake this function;

(b) The need to find more effective and executive governance of the United Nations operational activities. The present governing bodies do not always give the necessary support and guidance on a continuous basis.

As an illustration, the Nordic project introduces the idea of creating a system of smaller governing bodies. The membership of these bodies should adequately represent various regions and groups of countries in such a way that universality and representativity are combined with good and effective governance;

(c) The need to improve the funding system of the United Nations operational activities. The present arrangement of voluntary contributions does not provide the system with adequate means. To meet present and emerging needs, funding for the United Nations ought to be increased, made more stable and shared more equally among members.

As an illustration, the Nordic project introduces the idea that a revised funding system for the United Nations operational activities for development should be broadened to combine contributions from three sources: first, assessed contributions from all Member States. The purpose of this is to emphasize the principle of shared responsibility between all members. Secondly, negotiated pledges to cover the bulk of the costs - i.e., the core operational costs. Thirdly, possible additional voluntary contributions.

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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Letter dated 29 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, on instructions of the Government of Ghana, to request the General Assembly to take no action on the recommendation of the Committee for Development Planning contained in its report E/1991/32 that Ghana be considered for inclusion in the list of least developed countries.

As communicated to the President of the Economic and Social Council (E/1991/115), which first considered the Committee's report, the Government of Ghana would like to study and analyse the data and the new criteria on which the recommendation was based. The base years (1987-1989) used in the report cover a period when the economy of Ghana had barely begun to respond positively to the structural reforms introduced by the Government of Ghana. The statistical data available after this period need to be further studied. Also, it is necessary to consult our bilateral and multilateral partners who have given active support to Ghana's Structural Adjustment Programme.

I should be grateful if this communication would be issued as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) K. N. AWOONOR
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

91-36443 2833d (E)

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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Letter dated 28 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Final Communiqué of the Fourth Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this communiqué circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 77.

(Signed) Mohammad A. Abulhasan
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Final communiqué of the Fourth Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment

General recommendations

The Meeting was presented with a set of draft recommendations by the State of Kuwait, which were reviewed, amended and adopted as follows:

Conscious of what the State of Kuwait has undergone due to the Iraqi illegal invasion and occupation of Kuwait, causing damage to the environment and all forms of life, depletion of natural resources through the burning of more than 732 oil wells, as well as the spilling of millions of barrels of oil into the sea area, thus threatening the atmospheric, marine and terrestrial environments of the State of Kuwait in particular and other States of the region in general,

Taking into consideration the serious environmental impact and long-term monetary loss caused by the burning oil wells which deplete about 6 million barrels of oil daily; in addition spill of about 11 million barrels of oil which resulted in severe pollution of the marine environment of Kuwait in particular and the adjacent areas in general; as well as total destruction of the area and all forms of life in the area surrounding the oil wells due to gushing of oil onto the land and immense heat from the burning oil wells,

Realizing the magnitude of the environmental catastrophe in Kuwait, which is considered one of the biggest in the history of the world due to the nature and condition of the oil industry in Kuwait, which increases its dangerous effects, thus making it essential not only to put out the fires but also to continue the national, regional and international efforts to eliminate environmental deterioration resulting from this disaster,

Deeply concerned about the prolonged environmental threat to health and the social and economic effects of this catastrophe and its reflection on the environment and human beings,

Reaffirming the participation of the international community and its specialized scientific organizations and agencies in facing this environmental catastrophe which threatens the State of Kuwait and the ROPME region and other regions of the world,

The Fourth Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment agreed to:

(a) Consider the State of Kuwait and the whole region as environmentally damaged area which deserves continuous efforts for the rehabilitation of its environment to return to normalcy, and protection;

(b) Request the Member States of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment to take all necessary measures, in full coordination among themselves, to give priority to the rehabilitation of the environment and to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of the rehabilitation programme;

(c) Request all Members of the United Nations, in particular donor countries, to support efforts of both Kuwait and other countries of the region by providing technical, human resource and financial assistance to mitigate and eliminate the effects of the environmental catastrophe, prevent environmental deterioration in the region, and rehabilitate the environment;

(d) Call upon the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment to prepare a comprehensive plan of action to enable member States and cooperating international agencies to provide the General Assembly with a regional plan of action based on the work done under the United Nations Integrated Plan of Action, including precise allocation of responsibilities in the implementation effort; an acceptable operational time-frame; criteria for expected results; clear coordination structure and concise funding requirements;

(e) Call upon the United Nations organizations and specialized agencies - in particular the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to consider, in addition to their present assistance, the environmental catastrophe as a priority and include it as a part of their regular programmes;

(f) Call upon non-governmental international organizations to participate with their available technical and financial capabilities to rehabilitate the environment;

(g) Call upon the United Nations and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development secretariat to include the subject of environmental catastrophe in the region as one of the items in the agenda of the Conference, to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992;

(h) Request the Executive Secretary of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment to follow up on the implementation of the environmental rehabilitation programme, and to submit to the next meeting of the Council of the Organization a report on the state of the environment of Kuwait in particular and the region;

(i) Call upon Member States to ensure that the Regional Emergency Fund already established by the Regional Organization for the Protection of the

Marine Environment is revitalized by substantial voluntary contributions by member States for the immediate implementation requirements of the Consolidated Rehabilitation Programme.

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أعضاء اللجنة الثانية
第二委员会成员
MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE
MEMBRES DE LA DEUXIEME COMMISSION
ЧЛЕНЫ ВТОРОГО КОМИТЕТА
MIEMBROS DE LA SEGUNDA COMISION

ملحوظة : يرجى من الوفود التي تريد إدخال أية تصحيحات على القائمة التالية أن ترسلها ، كتابة ، إلى أمين اللجنة ، الغرفة S-2977A ، مبنى الأمانة العامة .

注意：请各代表团把对以下名单的更正用书面送交秘书处大楼第 S-2977A 室的委员会秘书。

NOTE Delegations are requested to send their corrections to the following list in writing to the Secretary of the Committee, room S-2977A, Secretariat Building.

NOTE Les délégations sont priées d'envoyer leurs corrections à la présente liste, par écrit, au Secretaire de la Commission, bureau S-2977A, Bâtiment du Secrétariat.

ПРИМЕЧАНИЕ Делегациям предлагается послать свои исправления к настоящему списку в письменной форме секретарю Комитета, комната S-2977A, здание Секретариата.

NOTA Se ruega a las delegaciones se sirvan enviar sus correcciones a la siguiente lista, por escrito, al Secretario de la Comisión, oficina S-2977A, Edificio de la Secretaría.

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المنظمات التي تلقت دعوة دائمة
للاشتراك في دورات وأعمال
الجمعية العامة بصفة مراقبين

收到以观察员身份参加
大会各届会议及工作的
长期有效的邀请的组织

ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE RECEIVED A STANDING INVITATION
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SESSIONS AND WORK
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS OBSERVERS

ORGANISATIONS AYANT RECU UNE INVITATION PERMANENTE
A PARTICIPER AUX SESSIONS ET AUX TRAVAUX
DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE EN QUALITE D'OBSERVATEURS

ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ, ПОЛУЧИВШИЕ ПОСТОЯННОЕ ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ
УЧАСТВОВАТЬ НА СЕССИЯХ И В РАБОТЕ ГЕНЕРАЛЬНОЙ
АССАМБЛЕИ В КАЧЕСТВЕ НАБЛЮДАТЕЛЕЙ

ORGANIZACIONES QUE HAN RECIBIDO UNA INVITACION PERMANENTE
A PARTICIPAR EN LOS PERIODOS DE SESIONES Y EN LOS
TRABAJOS DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL EN CALIDAD DE OBSERVADORAS

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European Economic Community	
International Committee of the Red Cross	Mr. Jean-Paul Fallet Ms. Sylvie Junod Mr. Fred Isler Ms. Monique Collard Mr. Philippe de Korodi
Organization of African Unity	Mr. V. Diomatchoua Toko

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General Assembly

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A/C.2/46/11
8 November 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 77 (e)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
ENVIRONMENT

Letter dated 29 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In view of the importance that the General Assembly attaches to the issue of large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the high seas, I request that you circulate the attached paper providing information in support of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/46/L.7.

(Signed) Thomas R. PICKERING

The need to end large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the high seas

The United States of America would like to draw the attention of delegations to the General Assembly to several points concerning large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the high seas and the draft resolution submitted by the United States and co-sponsored by Australia, Canada, the Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Romania, Solomon Islands and Sweden (A/C.2/46/L.7). The Bahamas, Barbados, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Samoa, Trinidad and Tobago and Vanuatu have also indicated their desire to co-sponsor the resolution, and others may do so before the document is formally introduced in the Second Committee.

The proposed resolution to end large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the high seas is a reflection and reiteration of resolutions 44/225 and 45/197 which were adopted by consensus by the General Assembly in December 1989 and December 1990, respectively. In resolution 44/225, the General Assembly took note of the fact that large-scale high seas pelagic driftnet fishing "can be highly indiscriminate and wasteful fishing method that is widely considered to threaten the effective conservation of living marine resources". It also called for a regional review of the best available scientific data by 30 June 1991. Finally, it called for a global moratorium by 30 June 1992, unless "effective conservation and management measures be taken based upon statistically sound analysis to be jointly made by concerned parties ... to prevent unacceptable impact of such fishing practices on that region and to ensure the conservation of the living marine resources of that region".

The approach adopted by the General Assembly in 1989 established a standard which had to be met, and a process to be followed, if large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the high seas were to be continued beyond 30 June 1992. The United States and many other concerned members of the international community submit that this standard has not been met.

So far as the United States is aware, there is no agreed scientific assessment with respect to the environmental impact posed by large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing which would justify continuation of this indiscriminate and wasteful high seas fishing method.

In this regard, there is no scientific information whatsoever on the nature and extent of the large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing activity that occurs on the high seas of the Indian and South Atlantic Oceans which would warrant continuation of large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing in those regions. And, only a small amount of data are available on high seas driftnet fishing in the South Pacific Ocean, which was halted in accordance with Assembly resolution 44/225.

The only agreed data that were available for regional review on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the high seas come from one of the five large-scale driftnet fisheries which is conducted in the North Pacific Ocean. These data, covering only the 1990 calendar year, were derived from a

cooperative monitoring programme of Japan, Canada and the United States, and were evaluated at a regional scientific review meeting held in British Columbia, Canada, in June 1991. According to Japanese estimates made public at that meeting, at this one fishery in 1990, approximately 106 million target species squid were caught and an estimated 41 million other animals from over 100 species were killed as by-catch, including 39 million other fish species, 700,000 sharks, 270,000 sea birds, 141,000 salmon, 26,000 marine mammals and 406 sea turtles. Some scientists have noted that the rate of non-target species by-catch may be even higher, since many animals drop out of the 30-40 kilometre-long driftnets while the gear is hauled in.

When these numbers, which represent only one year's data for a high seas driftnet fishery in one region, are considered globally and over a number of years, the destructive and wasteful nature of this indiscriminate fishing method simply cannot be denied.

The General Assembly was right to call attention to this important global problem in 1989. The large-scale driftnet fishing countries have had ample opportunity in the two years since adoption by consensus of resolution 44/225 to prepare to end this indiscriminate and wasteful fishing method by 30 June 1992, or to prove that it can be conducted so as not to have an unacceptable impact on the marine environment. They having done neither, it is incumbent upon the General Assembly to call for an end to this fishing method by 30 June 1992. If the General Assembly does not remain firm, the use of large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the high seas of the world's oceans and seas will almost certainly proliferate to the detriment of the global marine environment and to all of us who depend upon it.

Virtually every international regional fisheries or environmental organization, through resolutions or statements adopted in support, has called for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/225. These organizations include:

(a) International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN);

(b) Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC);

(c) Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation Committee (IOMAC);

(d) Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR);

(e) International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT);

(f) International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (INPFC);

(g) Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD);

(h) Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO);

(i) International Whaling Commission (IWC);

(j) Committee for the Management of Indian Ocean Tuna of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC);

(k) North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO).

The United States wishes to underscore that General Assembly resolution 44/225 and the draft resolution now proposed to end large-scale driftnet fishing on the high seas do not deal with small-scale coastal driftnet fishing which occurs in the exclusive economic zones of many coastal States, including the United States.

We encourage those who utilize high seas driftnet fishing technology to return to the traditional high seas fishing techniques which do not impose the unacceptable impact on marine resources associated with large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing.

Now is the time for the United Nations to declare once and for all that large-scale driftnet fishing on the high seas of the world's oceans and seas is an unacceptable fishing method that must end by 30 June 1992.

UNITED
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15 November 1991

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79, 81, 88 and 89

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND POLICIES AGREED UPON IN THE DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, IN PARTICULAR THE REVITALIZATION OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Letter dated 8 November 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the report of the Commonwealth Group of Experts entitled "Change for the better: global change and economic development", which was endorsed by the Meeting of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth in Harare, 16-22 October 1991.

I have the further honour to request that the executive summary, found in pages 1 to 10 of the report, be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 12, 77, 78, 79, 81, 88 and 89 of the agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Herbert S. WALKER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Executive summary of the report of the Commonwealth Group of Experts entitled "Change for the better: global change and economic development"

Change and Development

Our Group was established in 1989 against a widely felt concern that the circumstances facing developing countries had changed significantly in the 1980s; and that economic growth remained elusive for most of them. Global political and economic change and its impact on the development process, together with ways to improve development policies—domestic and international—are the principal themes of our report.

2. The main elements of changes in the 1980s which affected the development process include:

(i) the rise in the burden of developing country indebtedness;

(ii) a sharp decline in net financial flows to developing countries;

(iii) a decline in the world savings rate and the greater competition for available funds;

(iv) the ending of East-West tensions and the increased scope for reduction in military expenditures;

(v) the setbacks to progress in education, health and nutrition, in many developing countries;

(vi) the intensification of international economic linkages; and changing trade patterns;

(vii) the growth of regional integration;

(viii) the increased salience of small groups of major countries, such as the G7, in global economic management;

(ix) the changed orientation of domestic economic policies, especially in developed countries, towards market forces; and the repercussions this has had for development cooperation and notions of equity and aid as a public good;

(x) the spread of the democratic process; and the worldwide movement against statism;

(xi) the increase in environmental degradation and of awareness of the mutuality of interest in arresting it;

(xii) the increasing need for population policies;

(xiii) the increase in cross-border migration into both the developed and developing countries;

(xiv) the growth of drug trafficking; and

(xv) the increasing emphasis on the need for greater gender equity.

3. These changes have brought both opportunities and problems for development. They have generally increased interdependence and made stronger the mutuality of interest in sustainable development. They have led to a search for greater economic security; but they have also complicated international management, and been accompanied by a reduced commitment to multilateralism and development assistance. A new approach to international cooperation is needed if the opportunities provided by change are to be used beneficially to promote development and overcome immiseration and poverty.

The Starting Point

4. The 1980s were marked by increasing economic disparities. While the industrial countries enjoyed their longest period of sustained growth since the Second World War and some developing countries, particularly in Asia, also did well, most developing countries in Africa and Latin America were caught up in acute economic difficulties: physical and human capital deteriorated and malnutrition spread. Despite adopting wide-ranging adjustment programmes, at the end of the decade most developing countries were left with a reduced capacity to withstand economic shocks.

5. The prospect for much of the developing world continues to be bleak. There is a danger that immiseration, acute poverty, famine and environmental degradation will increase. This is in stark contrast to the industrialised world and a few developing countries which can look forward to growing prosperity in the 1990s.

Changes in National Systems

6. Growing economic adversity and political discontent in the 1980s led to an increasing search for improved national systems in most of the developing world as well as in Eastern Europe.

7. In parallel with these developments and inextricably linked to them have been changes in political perceptions. There has been growing appreciation of good governance, based on democracy and pluralism, sound administration, the rule of law, protection of human rights and decentralisation in decision making.

8. Wide-ranging reforms have been adopted, which on the economic side have been directed towards more open, flexible and market oriented policy stances.

9. The relationship between governance and development is complex. But it is apparent that diverse inputs are needed for development to be sustained. This diversity is facilitated by good governance, although there is no universally valid prescriptive model.

10. During the 1980s, despite their growing poverty and weakening human resources, many developing countries adopted measures conducive to good governance. But sound policies are not sufficient by themselves. Without adequate external assistance, national efforts will not succeed over any reasonable time period. There is need for greater technical and financial co-operation and a reformed international system.

The International System

11. The establishment of the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions were major landmarks. But the current system is inadequate to cope with the new realities of international relations.

12. Increased interdependence carries a necessary surrender of national freedom of action and recognition that many economic and other benefits can only be obtained and harmful effects avoided through closer cooperation. Better structured international institutions and mechanisms, including an emphasis on consensus building, can help the process.

13. The ending of the Cold War provides new systemic opportunities for this as well as new challenges. The United Nations can, for example, promote a more comprehensive concept of security that takes into account economic and social development, environmental change, human rights and migration.

14. In the economic sphere a widening gap has emerged between the practices of the IMF, World Bank and GATT and the evolving global management needs. The major industrial countries established small groups for increased consultation and co-ordination. But their successes have been limited. Of great concern to developing countries has been

the inadequate attention paid to the international implications of the major economies' national policies. The IMF can play an important role in rectifying this through enhanced surveillance, for example in ensuring that adjustment is symmetrical. There is in addition need to ensure better provision of safety nets and compensatory mechanisms for countries whose economies are particularly vulnerable to external shocks, for example to marked increases in energy prices.

15. The economies of most developing countries remain very vulnerable to exogenous shocks. These can be particularly severe in the case of commodities, whose prices show inherent instability. The present arrangements to provide compensatory finance in respect of sharp falls in receipts from commodity exports and sharp rises in costs of cereal and petroleum imports should be strengthened. There is a need to strengthen the IMF's Compensatory and Contingency Financing Facility.

16. To help solve the commodity problem rather than merely alleviate it, greater support should be given to measures aimed at diversification and commodity development. New arrangements are needed to compensate debt-distressed low-income countries from the impact of sharp increases in short-term interest rates.

17. Among developing countries, there is concern that the international system fails to support adjustment in a longer time period and a more growth-oriented framework. The system's ability to meet the needs of development finance is also being increasingly questioned. The capacity of multilateral financial institutions should be enhanced and bilateral ODA expanded to remedy this. There is also concern regarding global liquidity. Against a background where commercial banks remain reluctant to lend, there is case for increased liquidity to facilitate development through a further allocation of Special Drawing Rights or an increase in IMF quotas.

18. The trade and other links that draw countries together have dramatically changed, and require a strengthening of the GATT, not least to administer effectively the results of the Uruguay Round.

19. A particular Commonwealth concern is the vulnerability of small states. The international community has a moral obligation to develop mechanisms which would respond speedily to requests from those under economic or other threat.

Human Resources

20. Much greater investment in education and training will be required if developing countries are to benefit from recent technological changes.

Investment is becoming increasingly oriented towards new and sometimes more complex technologies whose absorption requires skilled labour. Almost all developing countries need more scientists and technologists, both to develop indigenous technologies and to adapt imported ones. A more technologically-oriented education curriculum can help.

21. The global population is still expanding too fast; only well into the next century will there be a significant drop in the size of annual increases unless there is some cataclysmic event such as an AIDS pandemic. More than three-quarters of the world's population live in developing countries and the proportion is still increasing. If the needs and aspirations of these countries are to be met, population growth will have to fall substantially. That, in turn, will depend inter alia on increased access to family planning services and improvements in education, health, women's position in society and economic progress itself.

22. The emigration of the most able and enterprising deprives many societies, particularly those in developing countries, of some of their most valuable human resources, and considerably constrains their development. Renewed efforts are needed to reduce the brain drain by voluntary means. An increasingly distressing phenomenon of the 1980s and early 1990s has been the marked rise in refugees of all kinds—economic, political and environmental. These have been especially apparent in the transborder movements of Africa and Asia. A multifaceted approach is needed, rooted in measures to alleviate poverty and environmental degradation, and mechanisms to reconcile differences based on ethnic or religious groupings and political ideologies.

Finance

23. The 1980s ended with the developing countries receiving significantly less external funds than at the beginning of the decade. Some were making large transfers to major industrial countries at the very time when they themselves required more finance.

24. With the end of the Cold War, and economic liberalisation, the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have emerged as new claimants on global savings. There are also new needs arising such as from reconstruction in the Gulf.

25. The high priority given to monetary policies in the fight against inflation, combined with the accentuated global imbalance between the supply of and demand for savings, implies that interest rates are likely to remain high. This will increase the debt-servicing burden of developing countries. These countries will also probably continue to have difficulty

in attracting private funds, for which they are likely to face increased competition from Eastern Europe and as a result of German unification. The likely diversion of official and private flows not only to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union but also to the Middle East is another cause for concern in many developing countries.

26. A reduction in defence expenditure in the industrial countries could however lead to increased assistance for developing countries, although there are many competing claims on any peace dividend. There is also considerable scope for a reduction in military expenditure in the developing countries themselves, particularly if restraint is shown by the armaments' exporters. This would release resources for development.

27. A substantial part of the additional resources which developing countries need can be found through improved domestic resource mobilisation. This requires appropriate macro-economic policies.

28. The international community should help by more effective measures to cope with the predicament of many debtor countries. Despite the relief introduced so far, the debt problem is worsening. While the Brady initiative may be bringing some middle-income countries nearer to restoring access to spontaneous capital flows, its overall impact remains limited. As for the official bilateral debt of low-income debt-distressed countries undertaking adjustment, the Toronto terms have brought only limited relief, although this has been increased in respect of those countries whose creditors have written off their debt. The Trinidad and Tobago terms, which seek to provide more substantial relief for these countries, should be adopted by the Paris Club creditors. There is also need to take action in regard to multilateral debt, which presents special problems. Approaches to debt should be comprehensive and governed by equitable burden- sharing between official and commercial creditors. One way of assisting all debtor countries with liquidity problems could be through an allocation of Special Drawing Rights or an increase in IMF quotas.

29. The decline in real net transfers to developing countries in the 1980s was due to the sharp contraction of private flows. While there has been some revival in such flows, it has been concentrated in a few countries. Wide-ranging action on several fronts is required to increase the number of countries able to attract private flows. Special efforts are needed to encourage repatriation of flight capital and remittances from migrants.

30. Given the political will, it should be possible for all developed countries to reach the agreed UN target for official development assistance of 0.7 per cent of GNP within a specified time frame. There is also need for greater transfers through grants and for a significant

increase in food aid. More effective use of official development assistance and further untying of commitments and relaxation of procurement procedures are highly desirable.

Trade

31. While the 1980s saw impressive growth in the total volume of merchandise trade, serious trading problems were encountered by many countries. Large parts of the developing world shared little in the growth.

32. Among the new elements affecting international trade were the increased globalisation of production caused by technological progress, the facilitation of foreign investment and greater corporate concentration; the pursuit of more outward-oriented policies by many developing countries; an acceleration of structural change; and the heightening concerns about the environment.

33. The policy response was seen in the increasing recourse to managed trade, to unilateralism and to regionalism. Multilateralism, as epitomised by GATT rules, came under increasing threat with grave consequences for the international economic system.

34. An improved environment will be required if international trade is to expand at a satisfactory pace and if all countries are to share in its benefits. Two elements are crucial: more open markets; and a stricter adherence to multilaterally agreed rules based on universally accepted principles of transparency and non-discrimination. If these criteria are to be fulfilled, it is essential that the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations is brought to a successful early conclusion. At present it is still in danger. A major hurdle is the agricultural stand-off between the United States and the European Community, whose resolution will depend in large measure on the timing and outcome of the EC's moves to reform its common agricultural policy. Substantive and balanced agreements are also needed on a number of other core issues such as textiles and clothing, safeguards and subsidies.

Technology Development and Transfer

35. Technological progress accelerated in the 1980s. While this occurred on a broad front, the effects of microelectronics, telecommunications and data-processing technologies were particularly pervasive, being both distinct and synergetic. Certain other new technologies are expected to have a similar impact in future years. They include biotechnology in agriculture, healthcare, energy, and the environment; new materials such as fibre-optics, special plastics, hardened ceramics and composite

materials; and new sources of energy based on renewable resources such as the sun.

36. The overall impact of these advanced technologies on economic growth and development has been very positive. However, adjustment in some countries and among some groups and making use of the benefits continue to pose problems. Restructuring and retraining are therefore crucial elements in the management of technological change, as is the building of indigenous technological capacity. To the extent that economies have successfully adopted new technologies, their output has increased and their international competitive positions have improved. For countries which are economically less developed, technological change has usually been more difficult to accommodate and manage. On the other hand, they can—and should—be assisted to adjust to these changes and thereby be in a position to take advantage of the new opportunities presented.

37. New technologies have already begun to affect the organisation of work. Within enterprises, former hierarchical structures are being replaced by more flexible group-based systems of operation. Most importantly, new technologies are already changing the international division of labour and influencing the pattern of world trade. They are increasing the tradeability of services and blurring the distinction between goods and services.

38. Mature technologies are also affecting developing countries in many ways, ranging from the production of goods to the use of energy. As developing countries industrialise, the latter will become increasingly important and means to increase their efficiency of energy transformation and utilisation should pay for themselves in reduced environmental and other costs of energy, whether imported or produced domestically.

39. A policy to enhance human resource development, especially education in the physical sciences, is now more crucial than ever to absorb technology and should be pursued assiduously.

Environment

40. All countries have contributed to the world's environmental problems, but their degree of responsibility varies considerably. In recent times, there have been profound changes in public perceptions of environmental issues which in many developed countries have moved high up the political agenda. But these countries have not yet succeeded in utilising resources in an environmentally sustainable way and thereby arresting environmental degradation. Their economic structures and lifestyles frequently have global implications—for example in the

threat of global warming caused mainly by fossil fuel consumption for industrialisation, transportation and other activities, and the depletion of the ozone layer through the use of chlorofluorocarbons. In the developing world, the effects are usually more local—soil erosion and desertification, caused by pressures on land resources and deforestation, for example—and have generally flowed from poverty. Rapid destruction of forests however has global implications as well as increasing emission of greenhouse gases and chlorofluorocarbons. Breaking this vicious interaction between poverty and environmental degradation will require major investments. Reducing the developed world's use of environmental resources will do likewise and will require fundamental changes in lifestyles as well.

41. Environmental problems have several dimensions and need to be tackled in a multifaceted manner. All countries need to intensify their efforts to deal with local environmental problems by integrating ecological considerations into economic policies and using economic instruments to promote sustainable development. Action at the national level alone is, however, insufficient. Some environmental problems pose a global threat to humanity, thereby underscoring the interdependence of nations and the growth of a strong mutuality of interest in sustainable development world-wide.

42. Although all nations have a common interest in safeguarding the future of the planet, there are serious differences between them on how global environmental problems should be treated. Agreement on this, and particularly on mechanisms for financing and facilitating technology transfer to help developing countries participate in the solutions, must be expedited. A consensus on burden-sharing in paying for the costs of environmental conservation will be essential in order to create the global partnership that is needed to secure humanity's common future. It is in the interest of the industrial countries to mobilise adequate financial resources to help developing countries achieve environmental and other developmental objectives, without imposing new forms of conditionality and diverting assistance from traditional development activities. The 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development provides the international community with a unique opportunity for forging a global compact to meet the world's environmental challenges in a way that is consistent with development. The environment issue has the potential to catalyse a revival of multilateralism. It must not be allowed to become a source of North/South confrontation.

Conclusions, Recommendations and the Way Ahead

43. Certain salient points emerge from the above summary. They show that in the 1980s, political, economic and intellectual or philosophical

changes had profound effects on economic growth and on development—broadly defined. Many of these changes affected the external economic environment of developing countries; others their political/security position; all had repercussions on the patterns of global management and on the international economic system. Every change was in some way linked to every other. They emphasised not only the interdependence of nations and issues but the new dimensions to the mutuality of interest and commonality of concern between the North and the South. A global approach is needed in order to tackle them.

44. In the final chapter of the Report we present our main recommendations grouped according to whether they require action by the developing countries of the South, the developed countries of the North, or the world community in the international system. We conclude that they provide a formidable agenda whose consideration will require initial discussions both in specialised fora and intersectorally. Thereafter there is need to carry forward the process and endeavour to give it higher salience and enhanced support through exploring the possibility of a summit meeting, representative of a cross-section of the global community.

45. Our last recommendation is therefore that the Commonwealth should take the lead in bringing these issues to the attention of the international community. In doing so, it should emphasise the global approach needed to solve them and the universal interest of humanity in doing so, expeditiously and effectively. We briefly sketch out the way in which such a process might be started.

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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND POLICIES AGREED UPON IN THE DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, IN PARTICULAR THE REVITALIZATION OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Letter dated 8 November 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Addendum

The membership of the Commonwealth Group of Experts on the Impact of Global Economic and Political Change on the Development Process is as follows:

Members of the group

Hon. G. Arthur Brown OJ (Chairman)	Governor, Bank of Jamaica.
H.E. J. L. S. Abbey	Ambassador of Ghana, Washington.
Mr. Muchkund Dubey*	Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.
Prof. Stuart Harris	Professor, Australian National University, Canberra.
Mr. Philip Khoo	Managing Director, Safetytech Sdn Bhd, Malaysia.
Dr. Ibbo Mandaza	Executive Director, Southern Africa Political Economy Series (SAPES) Trust, Harare.
Dr. Sylvia Ostry	Chairman, Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto.
Prof. Adedotun O. Phillips	Director-General, Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research, Ibadan.
Prof. Clive Thomas	Professor of Economics, University of Guyana.
Sir Douglas Wass GCB	Co-Chairman, Nomura International Ltd., London.
Dr. Arshad Zaman	Chief Economist, Ministry of Planning and Development, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Other participants at the meetings 1/

Mr. Rattan Bhatia	Special Representative of the International Monetary Fund to the United Nations, New York.
Mr. Jean Baneth	Director, World Bank Office, Geneva.

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* Owing to unforeseen events in relation to his substantive duties as Foreign Secretary, Government of India, Mr. Dubey was only able to attend the first meeting of the Group.

Mr. Roger Lawrence	Director, Coordinator, Resources for Development Programme, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Geneva.
Mr. Iqbal Haji	Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, United Nations Secretariat.

Commonwealth secretariat

Mr. P. W. Unwin	Deputy Secretary-General (Economic)
Dr. B. Persaud	Director and Head Economic Affairs Division (Secretary of the Expert Group)
Mr. I. R. Thomas	Assistant Director Economic Affairs Division
Dr. S. K. Rao	Assistant Director Economic Affairs Division
Dr. I. Coomaraswamy	Chief Officer (Ecoromics) Economic Affairs Division

Notes

1/ Mr. Stanley Fischer, Vice-President, World Bank, also participated.

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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: ENVIRONMENT

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 14 November 1991 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you an Executive Summary of the President's Council Report on a National Environmental Management System for South Africa, which was submitted to the South African State President on 22 October 1991.

In view of the importance that the General Assembly attaches to environmental issues, and with particular reference to the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development to be hosted in 1992, I should be grateful if the attached paper could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 77 (e) and 78.

(Signed) V. R. W. STEWARD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Executive Summary

Report of the President's Council on a National Environmental Management System for South Africa

Introduction

The South African State President, on 8 December 1989, requested the President's Council to investigate and make recommendations on a policy for a National Environmental Management System, with particular reference to the ecological, economic, social and legal implications thereof.

The Report of the President's Council on a National Environmental Management System was submitted to State President de Klerk on 22 October 1991.

Background to the investigation

The State President's request originated with the Government's awareness of the threats to the environment posed by rapid population growth and the associated impacts of urbanization and industrialization. The Government is also aware of the fact that management of the environment is increasingly becoming an international issue and that South Africa must be aware of its responsibilities towards the international community. At the same time, there is a growing public concern, both in South Africa and abroad, about the degradation of the environment.

Because of historical factors the control over the management of the environment has been shared by a variety of different institutions at central government, provincial administration and local authority levels. The question is whether the present management system is appropriate to deal with the growing complexity and interrelatedness of the environmental challenges. It is to this question that the Report addressed itself.

Orientation adopted by the Council

The President's Council, after due deliberation, decided to adopt a holistic approach in the execution of its mission: the interdependence of all forms of plant and animal life extends far beyond well-known specific relationships, such as parasitism and symbiosis, to ecosystems and even into biomes. What happens in one ecosystem or biome may well impact on others, hence the concept of holism. Consequently, it is necessary to consider development and conservation from a holistic point of view.

Until relatively recently, public policy towards the environment has generally been subordinated to the demands of development. As a result, most Governments have adopted the Best Practical Means (BPM) approach to guide their actions. The BPM approach focuses almost exclusively on the local

environmental consequences, while seldom taking regional and far less global implications into account. Because the President's Council has adopted the holistic approach, it recommends that the orientation of public environmental policy should change to that of the Best Practical Environmental Option (BPEO).

The conservation ethic

Mankind has grown to believe that it owns the land and the earth's resources. The effect of this belief on South Africa, while not necessarily as severe as elsewhere, is all too evident today in the form of degraded landscapes, soil erosion, polluted waters, air pollution and depleted wildlife resources, resulting in the endangering or extinction of many species of fauna and flora.

A basic prerequisite for the success of any new system of environmental management is therefore a change of heart in all citizens towards natural resources and the environment and their management. Unless people adopt a new credo towards the environment, no new policy or programme, no matter how sound, will succeed in conserving our natural heritage. This is a cause to which every South African must make a positive contribution.

People are merely the trustees of this planet, charged with conserving life with all its intricate relationships and all its wonder. Their attitude towards the environment must be that of stewardship. It is essential therefore that the ethic of stewardship be incorporated in any new environmental policy, an ethic that should ideally be entrenched in the constitution.

Environmental conservation in its broadest sense directly affects the quality of life of all South Africans and particularly that of future generations. The proper management of the environment and its natural resources is essential not only to ensure our survival but also to promote a sound economy and the welfare of all. Any government of South Africa has a moral responsibility to ensure the conservation of the rich natural heritage and scenic beauty of our country not only for our own inhabitants but also as a member of the international community.

As a developing country, with vast backlogs to be made up in areas such as housing, the provision of social services and the creation of jobs, South Africa has not the luxury, enjoyed by many developed countries, of being able to halt or limit development for purely environmental reasons. Indeed, any attempt to halt or limit development may well be regarded as an attempt by the privileged section of the community to lock others, hitherto denied such benefits, out of the advantages of economic development. The improvement of the quality of life of all South Africans - an objective subscribed to by the present Government - depends on both development and environmental conservation. The proposed management system must be capable of reconciling the two, by following the procedure known as Integrated Environmental Management (IEM).

These high ideals will never come about, nor will an environmental ethic take root, unless they are supported by efficient management and adequate funding. The proposals contained in the President's Council Report constitute only the first steps towards the more efficient management of the environment by providing guidelines for more efficient legislation, sounder management practices and better coordination of effort in the future.

Structure of the Report

The Report discusses the problems encountered in the use and management of the basic resources of soil, water, atmosphere and living resources, the causes of those problems and the weaknesses of the present system. Possible solutions to these problems are suggested, culminating in a model for a proposed new management system and structure, which the President's Council believes could rectify the present shortcomings and ensure the proper management of the environment in the future. The Report is organized as follows:

(a) Section I (prepared by the Committee for Social Affairs) comprises:

Chapter 1, which deals with the request, the background to the request, its interpretation and definition, a discussion of the conservation ethic and the modus operandi adopted;

Chapter 2, in which demographic trends, the major resources of soil, water, atmosphere and natural resources, and their abuse and depletion, as well as waste management are described and analysed;

Chapter 3, which discusses research, public involvement in environmental management and environmental education;

(b) Section II (compiled by the Committee for Economic Affairs) contains chapter 4, which deals with the economic implications of environmental management;

(c) Section III (product of the Committee for Constitutional Affairs) contains chapter 5, which analyses present environmental law, recommending amendments where necessary;

(d) Section IV (prepared by the Committee for Social Affairs) contains chapter 6, which sets out the proposed new National Environmental Management System at all levels of government and recommends a restructuring of the present environmental management system;

(e) Section V contains chapter 7, which is a list of the Report's 315 recommendations.

Recommendations

The Report's recommendations are listed under the following headings:

Section I

Land and soil (45 recommendations)

Water (21 recommendations)

The atmosphere (37 recommendations)

Living resources (23 recommendations)

Waste (15 recommendations)

Research (12 recommendations)

Public involvement in environmental management (7 recommendations)

Environmental education (6 recommendations)

Section II

Economic considerations: sustainable development policy (9 recommendations)

Section III

Environmental law (67 recommendations)

Section IV

National environmental management system (73 recommendations)

Capita selecta of recommendations

The problem of funding

It is recommended that the Environmental Conservation Act be amended to provide for a fund for environmental management. The revenue for this fund would accrue, inter alia, from the following sources: hunting and fishing permits and licences, fines and confiscations for the illegal hunting or fishing of living resources, revenue derived from the culling of wild animals or the sale of these to private individuals for the stocking of private game farms or zoological gardens, the fines for pollution of the soil, water, atmosphere or the sea, and any other source of revenue derived from illegal and/or exploitative use of natural resources.

It is further recommended that the Government significantly increase the budgetary provisions of the Department of Environment Affairs.

Protection of the environment in a future constitution

South Africans, through their political leaders, have embarked on a process of negotiating a new constitution for the country. It is far too early to say, and would be presumptuous to predict, what form the constitution will take. The President's Council has evidence arguing for the inclusion of the protection of the environment in such a new constitution and has taken

note of the fact that the new constitution of the Republic of Namibia provides for this protection. It is accordingly recommended that, in the negotiation of a new constitution for South Africa, the Government's responsibility to ensure a healthy environment be included amongst its provisions.

International law

It is suggested that the Department of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the relevant administrative bodies, investigate the advisability of South Africa becoming a party to the following conventions:

Convention for the Regulation of the Meshes of Fishing Nets and the Size Limits of Fish, 1946;

International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, 1954;

International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1971;

Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources, 1974;

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1979;

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982;

Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, 1986;

Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities, 1988;

Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, 1989.

(The Report notes that the South African Government has in principle decided to accede to the Basel Convention as soon as the necessary amendments have been made to existing legislation to allow South Africa to accede.)

Once South Africa has become a party to a particular convention, it is important that the necessary legislation be enacted in order to implement the provisions of the convention.

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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
ENVIRONMENT

Letter dated 14 November 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In view of the importance that the General Assembly attaches to the issue of large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the high seas, I request that you circulate the attached paper providing information in support of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/46/L.9.

(Signed) Yoshio HATANO

ANNEX

Japan's views on the resolutions on driftnet fishing

1. A threat is being posed to the consensus agreement

Two years ago, after lengthy and intensive consultations, the General Assembly adopted by consensus resolution 44/225 calling for a moratorium to be imposed on driftnet fishing on the high seas in June 1992. An important provision of that resolution is that a moratorium will not be imposed in a region if "effective conservation and management measures" are taken, "based upon statistically sound analysis". Since the resolution was adopted by consensus, it was assumed that all the Member States would abide by all of its provisions, including the conditions to relieve the moratorium, at least until a decision on a moratorium had been reached in June of next year.

However, certain countries, including principal supporters of the resolution, are now working to nullify it by introducing an absolute ban.

2. The scientific approach would be abandoned

During the consultations on driftnet fishing two years ago, Japan, as a fishing nation, emphasized the importance of scientific analysis. As a result, General Assembly resolution 44/225 includes a call for a regional review of scientific data by June 1991 and of conditions under which the moratorium will not be imposed. Whether the moratorium is to be declared has now to be decided on the basis of this scientific analysis.

Therefore, if driftnet fishing has an unacceptable impact on any ocean region, a moratorium is to be imposed automatically in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/225. Provision has already been made for an adequate mechanism for conserving living marine resources, based upon this scientific analysis. The proposal for a total ban contained in draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.7 is an attempt to abrogate this scientific approach. It will weaken the mutual trust that has been built up among Member States. Likewise, it runs counter to the spirit of compromise that resulted in the adoption by consensus of Assembly resolution 44/225.

The claim that the proposal for a total ban is "a reflection and reiteration of General Assembly resolution 44/225" also reveals a contradiction involved in draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.7. If the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.7 truly seek to reiterate General Assembly resolution 44/225, they have only to reaffirm it. There is no need to put forward a proposal containing new, restrictive measures.

3. The necessity of a moratorium has not been scientifically demonstrated

Prior to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 44/225, Japan, the United States of America and Canada established a cooperative monitoring programme to collect scientific data from commercial fisheries. From the 1989 season on, scientific observers from the three nations have been deployed on

Japanese commercial squid driftnet vessels under a joint observer programme to collect scientific data. A scientific review meeting was held in British Columbia, Canada, in June of this year to review these data and assess the impact of driftnet operations on living resources in the North Pacific, with participating scientists from the United States, Canada, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Australia and Japan.

Participants in that in-depth review, which was conducted on a species-by-species basis, agreed that Japanese squid driftnet fishing has no adverse impact on the stocks of most target or non-target species, while noting the need to obtain additional data on certain other species. The meeting did not conclude that driftnet fishing was either wasteful or harmful. Also important is the fact that no scientist expressed the view that it had to be halted immediately in the North Pacific to avoid exposing a species to irreparable damage.

4. The by-catch of non-target species from driftnet fishing in the North Pacific is comparable to the by-catch from other fishing methods

While some countries allege that driftnet fishing is indiscriminate and wasteful, many other fishing methods result in catches of unwanted fish. The by-catch from Japanese squid driftnet fishing, according to 1990 data, was 28 per cent of the total, comparable to that from other commercial fishing methods, such as trawling, and much lower, for example, than that of United States shrimp trawlers in the Gulf of Mexico, which is often 80-95 per cent.

Again, by way of comparison, in 1990 the driftnet by-catch of dolphins and porpoises in the North Pacific was less than half of the by-catch from purse-seine net fishing by the United States and other countries in the eastern Pacific. Such fishing has killed as many as 7 million dolphins and porpoises in the last 15 years, and, although the mortality rate has declined, it still resulted in the deaths of 50,000 mammals last year. If, on the basis of a 28 per cent by-catch from Japanese squid driftnet operations, some countries claim that driftnets are wasteful and harmful, they must first ban their own commercial fisheries, which are, according to their criteria, far more so.

It also should be noted that the reported driftnet by-catch includes species that are subsequently released alive - for example, 80-90 per cent of the reported by-catch of sea turtles.

As part of its conservation and management plan, Japan has suggested that pomfret, an abundant fish with little market value that was previously discarded, is to be utilized for human consumption as much as possible. This would drastically lower the proportion of by-catch from the current 28 per cent.

5. Conclusion

Japan was one of the principal supporters of General Assembly resolution 44/225, which stresses the importance of fishery conservation and management based on scientifically sound analysis, and it remains firmly committed to it. It was for this reason that Japan sponsored draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.9, which reaffirms Assembly resolution 44/225. Draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.7 rejects the scientific approach to which its sponsors have committed themselves and it abandons a resolution adopted by consensus while claiming to reinforce it. Japan therefore cannot support draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.7.